A WORLD IN TRANSITION
Presented by François VERLET, documentary director, social activist.

2017. All around the world we can see non-violent alternatives blossoming, whether in education, health, food, agriculture and even finance. They often are produced by independent citizen groups coming from the civil society. But where are they originated from?

This a large topic and even knowing that the sources are multiple I would like to focus on the so-called anti-globalization movement born in Seattle in 1999 to protest against the IMF (International Monetary Fund) influence. This movement combines criticism against wild capitalism (capitalism without morality) and North-South politics.

Since then, anti-globalization movements change to became "alter-globalisation" movements. This is very important. After the time of criticism comes the time of building alternatives. « Another world is possible ». But how and where?

This is were social forums take place. As an alternative to the famous Davos Forum where presidents and top managers meet in Switzerland, the first World Social Forum took place in Porto Alegre in Brazil in 2001. No political parties where invited. Slowly, year after year these forums gained influence and gathered more and more people. Mumbai had it in 2005.

These forums saw alternative experts presenting their own vision of the world and how to improve a situation seen as critical whether it is on ecology or social justice. World social forums where followed by local social forums in a joyful atmosphere combining serious analysis and evening gatherings. As the new world is also the one of the heart.

After sixteen years, we can consider the results of this deep-grounded work. A few presidents in Latin America claim to be part or close to the "alter-globalization" movement. Former presidents Lula in Brazil and Chavez in Venezuela, Morales in Bolivia, Rafael Correa in Ecuador. In Spain, the cities of Madrid and Barcelona are in the hands of two women coming from the « Indignados » movement, Podemos.

It may occur that the deep change is not that obvious because it works silently. All around the world small groups of citizens, sometimes tired with political parties, create local actions to change the global world. A concept of direct sales coming from Japan sees local food producers selling their products directly to consumers organised in groups and families. Good quality products, less pollution involved, better incomes for the farmers and most of all, friendships and conviviality amongst the participants.

Born in 2006 in the city of Totnes the transition movement created by Rob Hopkins offers to 2000 transition groups over the world to change their practices whether on how to consume energy, "relocalise" the economy or regain autonomy. Many towns all over the world now implement their advices.

Very close to the original Gandhian vision and following his steps, simply living lifestyles are develop by communities including the ones of French Pierre Rabhi and his « Colibri movement ».

In Sri Lanka, the « Sarvodaya Shramadana » movement implemented in 3500 villages Gandhi's vision of Village Republics controlling their own banking system in a non-violent economy now
real where nature and humankind are respected.

So there is hope for our suffering world. A hope that consciousness will overall brutal power and unconsciousness to lead the world towards a better planet in peace of heart, mind and spirit.

But as Rajagopal, Ekta Parishad leader says, if you want a different world, don't be indifferent. It's time to engage yourself.